

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /081 W

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R 151439Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3154

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, SG, NI

SUBJECT: UNESCO DG SUCCESSION

REF: DAKAR 1223

SUMMARY: NIGERIANS FAMOR M'BOW CANDIDACY FOR UNESCO
DG AND ANTICIPATE OAU ENDORSEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF RAISED QUESTION OF M'BOW CANDIDACY ON MARCH 15
WITH DIRECTOR MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT OGUNSULIRE IN
COURSE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROSPECTS FOR FORTHCOMING
OAU CM MEETING.

2. OGUNSULIRE SAID FMG FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY M'BOW
AND CONSIDERS HIM STRONG CANDIDATE FOR DG POSITION.
NIGERIA HAS NO CANDIDATE OF ITS OWN AND IS FULLY PREPARED
SUPPORT M'BOW, AND HE EXPECTED OAU TO GIVE ITS ENDORSEMENT
AT NEXT CM MEETING. OGUNSULIRE FELT M'BOW'S CHANCES OF
ELECTION GREATLY IMPROVED BY FACT FRENCHMAN (BLANCHARD)
BEAT OUT OAU CANDIDATE TERVOEDJRE FOR ILO DIRECTORSHIP,
MAKING IT HARDER TO FAVOR FRENCHMAN OVER AFRICAN FOR TOP
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SLOT IN SECOND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. BESIDES, HE

ADDED, MAREU WILL BE NEARLY 70 AT TIME OF ELECTION AND
MANY WILL FEEL IT IS TIME HE RETIRED HONORABLY FROM SCENE.

3. IN CONCLUSION, OGUNSULIRE REMARKED WRYLY THAT WHILE
OAU ENDORSEMENT OF M'BOW CERTAINLY SEEMS LIKELY, IT CAN
NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. ANOTHER CANDIDATE MAY SUDDENLY
EMERGE FROM WOODWORK AND FORCE DIFFICULT DECISION ON
ORGANIZATION, THOUGH THERE IS NO PRESENT SIGN THIS WILL
HAPPEN IN UNESCO CASE.
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